



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/917,419	07/30/2001	Taylor R. Efland	TI-31306	1132
7590	09/21/2004		EXAMINER CAO, PHAT X	
Gary C. Honeycutt Godwin White & Gruber, P.C. 801 E. Campbell Rd., Suite 655 Richardson, TX 75081			ART UNIT 2814	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/917,419

Applicant(s)

EFLAND ET AL.

Examiner

Phat X. Cao

Art Unit

2814



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 27-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2814

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Williams et al (US. 5,665,996).

Williams (Fig. 7A) discloses a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: contact pads 76 located over active components and including electro-plated portions 76D of gold (column 6, lines 1-3); and the position of the pads selected to provide control and distribution of power to the active components below the pads and to minimize the distance for power delivery between a selected pad 76 and one or more corresponding active components (column 3, lines 26-30). Williams further discloses a metallization layer 73 between the contact pads 76 and the active components, the metallization layer 73 patterned and vertically coupled upward to the contact pads 76 and vertically coupled downward to the active components; and a wire bonded to the bonding pad 76 at a desired location for reducing the resistance of the active components

Art Unit: 2814

(column 3, lines 26-30). Therefore, the maximizes dissipation of thermal energy would be inherently released by the active components.

Williams does not specifically disclose that the contact pads 76 function as stress absorbing (claim 1). However, when the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent. Therefore, the contact pads 76 would inherently function as stress absorbing because they are made of nickel which is the same material as claimed contact pads.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (US. 5,739,587).

Sato (Fig. 13) discloses a semiconductor device comprising multilayer contact pads 100 positioned over active components; and at least one metallization layer 110 between the contact pads 100 and the active components, the metallization layer 110 patterned and vertically coupled upward to the contact pads 100 and vertically coupled downward to the active components.

Sato does not specifically disclose that the contact pads 100 function as stress absorbing (claim 1). However, when the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent. Therefore, the contact pads 100 would inherently function as stress absorbing because they are made of aluminum which is the same material as claimed contact pads. Regarding process limitation (electro-plated), this would not carry patentable weight in a claim drawn to structure because distinct structure is not necessarily produced. In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Art Unit: 2814

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US. 5, 739,587).

Sato (Figs. 13-14) discloses a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a laterally organized power transistor; an array of power supply contact pads 100 distributed over the power transistor; the contact pads 100 characterized by multiple metal layers including a thin top layer 102; means for providing a distributed, predominantly vertical current flow from the contact pads 100 to the transistor; and means for connecting a voltage to each of the contact pads.

Sato does not disclose a power source applied to each of the contact pads. However, it would have been obvious to apply a power source to each of the contact pads 100 of Sato in order to supply a voltage source to the source/drain of the power transistor. Regarding process limitation (electro-plated), this would not carry patentable weight in a claim drawn to structure because distinct structure is not necessarily produced. In re Thorpe, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al (US. 5,665,996).

Art Unit: 2814

Williams (Fig. 7A) discloses a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a laterally organized power transistor; an array of contact pads 76 distributed over the power transistor, the contact pads 76 characterized by multiple metal layers including an electro-plated gold layer 76D; and means for providing a distributed, predominantly vertical current flow from the contact pads to the transistor.

Williams does not disclose a power source applied to each of the contact pads 76.

However, it would have been obvious to apply a power source to each of the contact pads 76 of Williams in order to supply a voltage source to the source/drain of the power transistor.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 6-26 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant argues that Williams does not teach the metallization layer of the amended claims.

This argument is not persuasive because William's Fig. 7A clearly discloses the metallization layer 73 having the structure of the amended claims.

Applicant argues that Sato's contact pads do not include a layer formed by electro-plated process.

Art Unit: 2814

This argument is not persuasive because the process limitation of “electro-plated” does not lend patentability to the claims drawn to the structure. However, William’s Fig. 7A does teach the contact pads including a gold layer 76D formed by electro-plated process.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phat X. Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (571) 272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PC
September 18, 2004


PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**NOTICE OF OFFICE PLAN TO CEASE SUPPLYING COPIES OF CITED U.S. PATENT
REFERENCES WITH OFFICE ACTIONS, AND PILOT TO EVALUATE THE
ALTERNATIVE OF PROVIDING ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO SUCH U.S. PATENT
REFERENCES**

Summary

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office or USPTO) plans in the near future to: (1) cease mailing copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications (US patent references) with Office actions except for citations made during the international stage of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and those made during reexamination proceedings; and (2) provide electronic access to, with convenient downloading capability of, the US patent references cited in an Office action via the Office's private Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system which has a new feature called "E-Patent Reference." Before ceasing to provide copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the Office shall test the feasibility of the E-Patent Reference feature by conducting a two-month pilot project starting with Office actions mailed after December 1, 2003. The Office shall evaluate the pilot project and publish the results in a notice which will be posted on the Office's web site (www.USPTO.gov) and in the Patent Official Gazette (O.G.). In order to use the new E-Patent Reference feature during the pilot period, or when the Office ceases to send copies of U.S. patent references with Office actions, the applicant must: (1) obtain a digital certificate from the Office; (2) obtain a customer number from the Office, and (3) properly associate applications with the customer number. The pilot project does not involve or affect the current Office practice of supplying paper copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature with Office actions. Paper copies of references will continue to be provided by the USPTO for searches and written opinions prepared by the USPTO for international applications during the international stage and for reexamination proceedings.

Description of Pilot Project to Provide Electronic Access to Cited U.S. Patent References

On December 1, 2003, the Office will make available a new feature, E-Patent Reference, in the Office's private PAIR system, to allow more convenient downloading of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications. The new feature will allow an authorized user of private PAIR to download some or all of the U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications cited by an examiner on form PTO-892 in Office actions, as well as U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications submitted by applicants on form PTO/SB08 (1449) as part of an IDS. The retrieval of some or all of the documents may be performed in one downloading step with the documents encoded as Adobe Portable Document format (.pdf) files, which is an improvement over the current page-by-page retrieval capability from other USPTO systems.

references. The Office plans to continue to provide access to the E-Patent Reference feature during its evaluation of the pilot.

Comments

Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature should be in writing and directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by electronic mail at eReference@uspto.gov or by facsimile to (703) 308-2840. Comments will be posted and made available for public inspection. To ensure that comments are considered in the evaluation of the pilot project, comments should be submitted in writing by January 15, 2004.

Comments with respect to specific applications should be sent to the Technology Centers' customer service centers. Comments concerning digital certificates, customer numbers, and associating customer numbers with applications should be sent to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

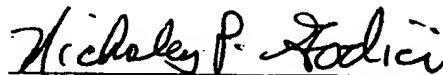
Implementation after Pilot

After the pilot, its evaluation, and publication of a subsequent notice as indicated above, the Office expects to implement its plan to cease mailing paper copies of U.S. patent references cited during examination of non provisional applications on or after February 2, 2004; although copies of cited foreign patent documents, as well as non-patent literature, will still be mailed to the applicant until such time as substantially all applications have been scanned into IFW.

For Further Information Contact

Technical information on the operation of the IFW system can be found on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/index.html>. Comments concerning the E-Patent Reference feature and questions concerning the operation of the PAIR system should be directed to the EBC at the USPTO at (866) 217-9197. The EBC may also be contacted by facsimile at (703) 308-2840 or by e-mail at EBC@uspto.gov.

Date: 12/1/03



Nicholas P. Godici
Commissioner for Patents

TC2800

Organization

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

If Undeliverable Return In Ten Days

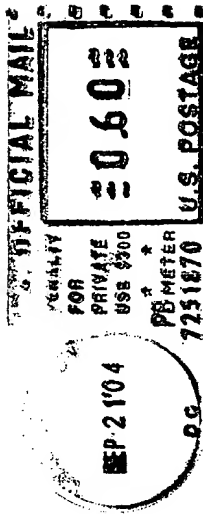
Bldg./Room

Jeff

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Official Business

Penalty For Private Use, \$300



NOT DELIVERABLE
145 ADDRESS

73 993137P353

